State Governments to levy toll on bridges

250. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed the State Governments to levy toll on bridges constructed on Express Highways and National Highways; if so, what are the criteria laid down for the same;

(b) whether Government stipulate any tariff for levying the toll and duration;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Thane Creek Bridge between Chembur and Panvel was imposed with toll in past;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the toll was squashed by Government after the court order; and

(e) whether Government have explored the legality in imposing such toll?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is having in mind the levy of fees for use of National Highway permanent bridges made applicable in November, 1978 which stands revised from February, 1992 on the bridges costing more than Rs. 100 lakhs. The fee so leviable remains in operation for a limited period only and are to be dis-continued as soon as the full capital cost of the bridge including maintenance cost and interest thereon are recovered.

(c) to (e) The bridge in question is forming a part of the State Road network and all matters relating to such roads including imposing toll etc. is the concern of the State Government. The Central Government is primarily responsible for the roads declared as National Highways only.

Funds for NH works in West Bengal

251. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) whether the funds made available for West Bengal for NH works including extrenally aided projects and NH maintenance and repair works, fell much short of the actual requirement during the last several years.

(b) whether a total amount of Rs. 35 crores which had to be spent by the State Government to keep the NH traffic worthy, remains to be reimbursed by the Ministry; and

(c) what action Government are taking for the unreimbursed expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. There is shortage of fund for NH maintenance and repair works in all the States including State of West Bengal due to constraint of funds. However there is no shortage of fund in so far as externally aided projects are concerned.

(b) A sum of Rs. 35 crores has been allotted to the State Government for the normal NH works and externally aided project during the year 1993-94.

(c) Does not arise.